

- (5) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)
- (6) Desert Development Programme (DDP)
- (7) Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP)

Completion of Telugu Ganga Project

300. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a huge cost escalation in Telugu Ganga Project;
- (b) the details of its initial estimate in 1983 and the present estimated cost; and
- (c) by when the project is likely to be completed to solve drinking water problems of Chennai besides problems of Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BUJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has not intimated the present estimated cost of Telugu Ganga Project. However the estimated cost of the Project was Rs. 2470.00 crore (as per the review report of September 1997) against the initial estimated cost of Rs. 637.00 crore in 1983 as reported by Andhra Pradesh. The Project is likely to be completed beyond IX Plan.

Linking of Major Rivers

301. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the action taken to link major rivers as recommended by the K. L. Rao Committee to solve the problem of certain areas facing problem of floods while other areas registering perpetual drought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BUJOYA CHAKAVARTY): There is no Committee under the name of K. L. Rao Committee. However, Dr. K.L. Rao proposed Ganga Cauvery Link which was examined by the Central Water Commission and found to be grossly under estimated. Besides the proposal also required a large block of power and was devoid of any flood control benefits. However, the Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and Central Water Commission have formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development